

## blasts Soviet W. Berlin consulate

BERLIN, March 7 (R) — A bomb blast damaged the consulate in West Berlin today and an Afghan organisation against Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan claimed responsibility. There were no casualties but police said the bomb, planted in a toilet on the ground floor, wrecked an office and smashed the front windows of the building. Police called a West Berlin radio station and the office of a West German news agency that an Afghan led the Mujahiddin (holy warriors), had carried out the protest against the Soviet move into Afghanistan. The Soviet News Agency Tass reacted angrily saying it was a chance that no one was hurt. Glass was scattered across in front of the elegant two-storey villa in the southern suburb of Zehlendorf, part of the U.S. sector of the city. U.S. officials were allowed into the area to inspect the damage.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

## Israel protests London, Bonn stand

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 7 (R) — Israel today officially protested to Britain and West Germany over their support for Palestinian self-determination, a foreign ministry spokesman said today. The German ambassador and the British embassy's charge d'affaires were called to the foreign ministry where the Israeli protest was lodged. The protest concerned a West German and British announcement earlier this week supporting French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's call for Palestinian self-determination, made while he was in Bahrain. Prime Minister Menachem Begin told the Israeli Knesset yesterday that "the only meaning of self-determination in this case will be the establishment of an independent Palestinian state." The foreign ministry spokesman said: "We expressed our surprise at the fact that countries that support the Camp David accord use terms which contradict the agreements."

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## O diplomats gain more ground than bellicose colleagues

By Steve K. Hindy  
The Associated Press

T. — The tweed-suited diplomats of the Liberation Organisation appear to be gaining more ground than their bellicose colleagues in putting the Palestinian cause on the map.

resident Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's call for "self-determination" for the Palestinian people, and a Europe are being given the nine-nation economic Community is up the question of it.

Eight months, PLO Yasser Arafat has ended of governments in Turkey and Por-



Yasser Arafat

received hundreds of delegations, including his heavily-guarded

omats here say the Iranian leader recently flew from Paris to Amman. They say he is out for meetings with leaders of those countries, in due head of state, oil-producing states it clear to oil-thirsty Japan and Japan that relations is a solid "Palestinian Question" PLO is reaping of this persuasive use of it.

has given up nothing for his increasing Mr. Arafat is closely at he calls his "only recognition of Israel."

A close Arafat aide who accompanied the Palestinian leader on all four trips last year, said: "Most of the leaders we talked to asked about whether or not we were ready to recognise Israel. We told them this is up to Israel. Mr. Arafat cannot tell them, 'yes, we want to recognise Israel', this is not in our charter."

"Instead, he tells them to start asking Israel when it will recognise the rights of the Palestinians."

Arab diplomats, however, say that members of Mr. Arafat's mainstream command group, Fatah, privately assure them "once the Palestinians have a state, the revolution is over."

These diplomats believe that Fatah, which dwarfs the other seven command groups under the PLO banner, would concentrate on domestic development if it had a state.

PLO officials say that Mr. Arafat may be making another visit to Western Europe sometime this spring. His ultimate goal is recognition by the United States, Israel's no. 1 supporter with a \$2 billion annual aid programme for the Zionist state.

PLO diplomacy is mapped out by the roughly 100 men working in the main office of the PLO political department and the 350 representatives of the Palestinian organisation running 67 offices in 65 countries around the world.

In the United States, the PLO is represented at the United Nations by Mr. Zuhdi Terzi, the white-haired gaitered Palestinian whose meeting with former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young in August 1979 led to Mr. Young's forced resignation.

The PLO also has an information office in Washington, D.C. Neither office is officially recognised by the U.S. government, which has promised Israel it will not talk with the PLO.

The PLO, founded in 1964, has long enjoyed almost full diplomatic privileges in the Arab world. (Continued on page 2)

## Syria pulls troops out of Beirut

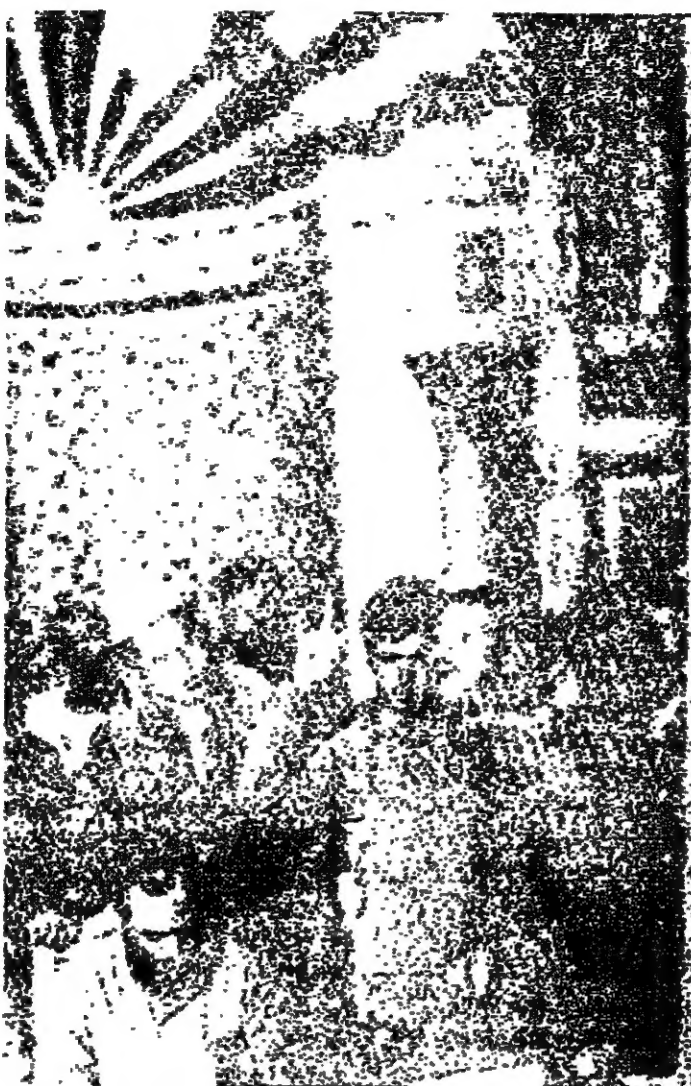
BEIRUT, March 7 (AP) — Syrian troops handed over peacekeeping duties to the Lebanese army on the fringes of Beirut's right-wing sector today and moved armour and artillery to the Beqaa Valley. Syrian Premier Abdul Raouf Al Kasm termed the move "a positive start" and said the withdrawal from Beirut will be "finished quickly." No deadline was set.

Syrian tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery and rocket launchers rumbled in long convoys up the Lebanese mountains. The main Beirut-Damascus highway was closed while the Syrians moved their equipment to the Beqaa.

Syria announced on Feb. 4 that it was withdrawing its contingent of roughly 5,000 men from Beirut, part of a force of 22,000 policing the Lebanese civil war armistice.

Dr. Kasm said the Syrian decision was designed to "give incentives to all the Lebanese to exert serious efforts towards national entente."

"Judging by the present political situation in Lebanon, I believe the decision had led to a positive beginning," he added in an apparent reference to a declaration of principles on national reconciliation announced on Wednesday by the Lebanese government.



A Muslim fundamentalist speaks in front of microphones inside the Cairo Al Azhar Mosque, oldest and most sacred mosque in Egypt, Friday, to denounce the normalisation of relations between Egypt and Israel. (AP wirephoto)

## Islam fundamentalists denounce Egypt-Israel normalisation of ties

CAIRO, March 7 (AP) — About 2,000 Islamic fundamentalists today gathered inside Egypt's oldest and most sacred mosque to protest normalisation of relations with Israel.

"Islamic, Islamic not Jewish or Zionist," the protesters chanted in the rally staged after noon prayers.

in the 1,000-year-old Al Azhar mosque in central Cairo.

Outside, banners vowed that "Mohammad's army will return to Jerusalem," which has been under Israeli occupation since the 1967 war and contains Islam's third

holiest shrine — the Al Aqsa mosque.

Dozens of police were stationed near the entrance of Al Azhar but made no move to stop the three-hour protest in which speakers (Continued on page 2)

## Arrives today for three-day official visit

## Giscard to reaffirm desire to enhance dialogue with Jordan

AMMAN, March 7 (Agencies) — French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing said today his talks with His Majesty King Hussein "will reaffirm

our mutual desire to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of friendship and mutual trust."

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing flew into Amman, Jordan's port city on the north-eastern tip of the Red Sea, yesterday from Abu Dhabi for two days of rest before starting an official visit to Amman.

Accompanied by His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing visited archaeological sites, and toured the Nabataean city of Petra.

The two leaders also went to desert hunting grounds before sitting down behind closed doors for private talks.

When they arrive here tomorrow, the French president and Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing will be accorded an official reception at Amman airport. The welcoming party will be led by His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor. Members of the Royal family, top government officials, senior army officers, and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Jordan will also be present to welcome the French leader.

King Hussein and President Giscard d'Estaing will hold talks on the current international situation, latest developments in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

The French president will also visit military installations and development projects in the Jordan Valley.

Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing will visit the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, the Roman amphitheatre, the Folklore Museum and Mount Neba near



The French President and Mrs. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing

Madaba.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency (JNA), the French leader said Franco-Jordanian relations were "excellent and I must explain that viewpoints in Amman and Paris are similar on all international and regional questions, especially the Palestinian problem which forms the crux of the Arab-Israeli struggle."

"In the economic field, very encouraging results have been realised," Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said, adding that although "French presence in the Jordanian market has not been strong during the past few years, conditions are excellent now for the development of cooperation between the two countries."

He said he would like to announce that "France is particularly prepared to participate in energising the Jordanian development plan," according to JNA.

The same applies to the cultural field. "The success achieved in this field must prompt us to develop, deepen and expand the scope of cooperation between France and Jordan," he said. He expressed satisfaction with "the French programme broadcast over Jordan Television, as well as cooperation in the field of designing (topographic) maps and the strong ties between Jordanian and French universities."

The French president called for a "comprehensive" settlement to the Middle East crisis, saying that "a comprehensive settlement has now become necessary to achieve a durable peace in the Middle East."

"We must start with talks to which all concerned parties, including representatives of the Palestinian people, must be invited," he said.

Any solution "must deal with the various aspects of the dispute." (Continued on page 2)



AHLAN WA SAHLAN  
SOYEZ LE BIENVENU

The United Automobile Trading Company, agents in Jordan for Automobiles Peugeot, join with all the people of Jordan in extending a heartfelt welcome to President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and his delegation, and hope this week's discussions between the Jordanian and French leaders will pave the way for increased technical, political, economic and human cooperation between the two countries, based on the commitment of France and Jordan to peace, dignity and justice for all people.



**DOC GROUP OF COMPANIES**  
Extend their warmest welcome and greetings to the  
**President of the French Republic**  
and  
**Madame Giscard d'Estaing**  
on the occasion of their visit to Jordan

**UAP**  
L'UNION DES ASSURANCES  
DE PARIS JORDAN AGENCY  
Welcome H.E.  
Mr. Valéry Giscard D'estaing  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF FRANCE.

الخط الجوية الملكية الأردنية، souhaite la bienvenue à Monsieur le Président de la République Française et Madame Giscard d'Estaing.  
ALIA souhaite que le séjour de Monsieur le Président ressère d'avantage les liens entre les deux peuples Français et Jordanien, liens que la compagnie ALIA a développé en inaugurant la ligne Amman-Paris, et qu'elle a aidé 144.500 passagers à visiter la Jordanie et la France dès 1966.  
L'Airbus d'Air France ayant dernièrement contribuer à l'accroissement des échanges entre les deux pays, ALIA espère que ses Jumbo 747, ne peuvent favoriser cet accroissement qu'en atterrissant à Orly.





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President of the Republic Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has actively supported telecommunications development in France.

## Bienvenue

LA VISITE officielle que le président de la République française commence aujourd'hui en Jordanie a lieu dans la conjoncture où les Arabes s'engagent à la recherche d'une stratégie nouvelle visant à réaliser leurs espoirs d'avoir une paix durable et un règlement équitable au Moyen-Orient.

Tandis que cette recherche doit être construite d'abord sur les bases solides de l'unité arabe, c'est en même temps vrai que les arabes souhaitent engager des collaborateurs étrangers pour l'accomplir.

Aucun pays occidental ne montre autant de qualités d'un tel collègue éventuel mieux que la France.

La République française est simplement une amie des Arabes. Depuis longtemps, elle a réalisé qu'une telle amitié est manifestement à l'avantage de la France elle-même.

Le résultat de cette amitié est la réalisation de plusieurs sortes de coopération économiques, sociales et politiques desquelles les Français et les Arabes ont bien profités.

Tout de même, la tournée actuelle de M. Giscard d'Estaing au Moyen-Orient a pris une plus grande signification que prennent normalement les autres visites de ce genre.

La conjonction des circonstances mondiales et régionales lui donne une importance qui dépasse le simple développement et renforcement des liens d'amitié et de coopération qui lient les peuples français et arabes.

Au cours de ses escales précédentes à Koweït, Bahrein, Qatar et aux Emirats Arabes Unis, M. Giscard d'Estaing et les chefs d'Etat de ces pays ont officiellement manifesté leur soutien et leur reconnaissance "des droits légitimes du peuple palestinien" y compris le droit à l'autodétermination dans le cadre d'une paix juste et durable.

En faisant cela, la France devient la première puissance occidentale à exprimer un tel soutien aux conditions arabes les plus fondamentales qui visent à la réalisation de cette paix juste et durable au Moyen-Orient.

C'est l'expression la plus tangible, jusqu'à ce jour-ci, de la position commune qui est en train d'évoluer parmi les neuf membres de la communauté européenne qui envisage d'établir les fondations d'une initiative européenne au Moyen-Orient.

Le temps est, en effet, arrivé pour une telle initiative. Le processus de "Camp David" qui est conçu par les Américains est à bout de forces. Les Arabes ont eu la tendance jusqu'ici de considérer que les Etats-Unis "tiennent la clef" de la résolution du conflit israëlo-arabe à cause de la pression que pourraient exercer sur les Israéliens. Cependant, les actions hostiles prises, tout récemment, par l'administration Carter à l'égard des négociations pour "l'autonomie des Palestiniens" et du vote dans le conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies au sujet des implantations israéliennes ont persuadés les Arabes que leur ancienne dépendance sur la médiation diplomatique américaine a besoin de révision.

Cela ne veut pas dire que la France, mieux que toutes autres puissances, pourra produire instantanément une formule magique de paix.

Mais, il n'est pas très optimiste d'espérer que le terrain préparé au cours de la tournée de M. Giscard d'Estaing pourrait être cultivé et rendre des vrais fruits de succès.

Les Français ont le droit de souligner que ce succès dépend autant de l'initiative des Arabes que celle des européennes. La Jordanie, pour sa part, connaît bien ses propres responsabilités quant à la prise d'une telle initiative.

C'est avec un grand plaisir que nous attendons l'occasion de poursuivre notre dialogue avec les dirigeants français en tout ce qui concerne nos deux pays amis.

Nous souhaitons tout particulièrement la bienvenue au président Valéry Giscard d'Estaing dans un esprit d'affection et de fraternité.

Vive la France. Vive la coopération franco-jordanienne.

## Welcome

THE OFFICIAL visit to Jordan which the President of the French Republic begins today, comes at a time when the Arabs are searching for a new strategy for realising their aspirations for peace and justice in the Middle East.

While this effort must be built, first and foremost, on the strong foundations of Arab unity, it is nonetheless true that the Arabs are always eager to engage outside partners in the search for a just peace.

No Western country embodies as many of the qualities of such a potential peace partner as does France. The French Republic is, to put it plainly, a friend of the Arabs. It has long realised that such friendship is manifestly in its own best interests. The result of this friendship has been a wide range of mutual economic, social and political exchanges from which both the Arab and the French peoples have benefited.

Yet, the current tour of Mr. Giscard d'Estaing in the Middle East has taken on a significance greater than that which normally attends such state visits. A conjunction of global and regional circumstances has infused this tour with an importance which surpasses the simple development and strengthening of the ties of friendship and cooperation which link the French and Arab peoples.

During his previous stops in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing has joined the leaders of those countries in officially expressing support and recognition of "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination within the framework of an overall peace settlement." In doing so, France becomes the first Western European power to express such forthright endorsement of the most fundamental of the Arab requirements for a fair and durable peace in the Middle East.

This is the most tangible expression thus far of a coordinated position which is being evolved by the nine members of the European Economic Community with a view to building the groundwork for a possible European initiative on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The time is obviously ripe for such a European initiative. The American-sponsored Camp David process -- a seriously flawed mechanism from the start -- has run out of steam. And, whereas the Arabs have tended in the past to consider that the United States holds the key to resolving the conflict, it is only because of the leverage which it is thought capable of exercising with the Israelis, the recent hostile actions of the Carter administration with regard to the "autonomy" negotiations and the United Nations Security Council vote on the issue of Israeli settlements have induced the Arabs to reappraise their reliance on American diplomatic intervention.

This is not to say that France, or any other alternative intermediary, could produce a magic formula which will produce a just peace overnight. But it is not too optimistic to hope that the fresh ground broken during President Giscard's tour can be cultivated to yield the true fruits of success. And the French are correct in stressing that this depends as much on Arab initiatives as on European ones, if not more so. Jordan, for its part, is aware of its own responsibilities in this regard. We welcome this opportunity to exchange views with the French leadership on this and other subjects of mutual interest.

We specifically welcome President Giscard d'Estaing in a true spirit of affection and fraternity.

Vive la France. Vive la coopération franco-jordanienne.

## Jerusalem Fund delegations appointed



Marwan Al Qasbi

AMMAN, March 7 (JT)--The cabinet has formed the Jordanian delegation to attend the meetings of the Jerusalem Fund's committee chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco. The delegation is headed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasbi and Mr. Nayef Al Qadi, a Foreign Ministry employee and one of the Jordanian Embassy staff in Rabat.

The cabinet formed another delegation, headed by the Director of the Executive Bureau for Occupied Territories Affairs, Mr. Shawkat Mahmoud, to attend meetings of the Jerusalem Fund's board of directors in Marrakesh tomorrow. The delegation includes Mr. Hassan Tahboub, the director of Awqaf in Jerusalem, and one of the Jordanian Embassy staff in Rabat.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

French Film

The French Cultural Centre presents a film by Robin Davis entitled "Ce cher Victor" at 7:30 p.m.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing is in an excellent position as a prominent European leader who seeks to affirm an independent European personality and who views international issues objectively and independently. This position has made possible his important current role, which he has been playing since he began his Arab tour in Kuwait, where he called for the recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination and for a recognition of the Palestinians as a people and not merely as refugees.

We gratefully appreciate the French role in this regard. This, however, does not prevent us from being frank with President Giscard, and telling him that the long awaited European role should develop far enough to reach the core of the problem--that is, Israel's intransigence and its insistence on holding on to the occupied territories in defiance of the will of the international community.

The unanimous U.N. Security Council resolution for the dismantling of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories has been met with Israeli rejection, as have previous international resolutions. The European role should transcend mere calls for Israeli withdrawal. Europe should force Israel to withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their national rights.

AL DUSTOUR: His Majesty King Hussein's call on Thursday for efforts to conserve nature comes at the right time to remind our people of essential issues they have forgotten or neglected. It is no longer possible to keep quiet about the abuse of nature if we want to leave to future generations a beautiful homeland to love and to be loved by.

King Hussein's call on the people to return nature to a position of respect among themselves and to deal with it with love and charity is part of an international campaign for the same ends. The fear of pollution in cities, rivers and lakes is now overwhelmingly preoccupying the feelings of millions of people around the world.

Our country is a beautiful and marvellous one and deserves loving and kind treatment from us, which means preserving its trees, birds and animals and planting its hills with trees and decorating its parks and valleys with flowers. We should conserve its soil from erosion, protect it from the deadly ghost of the desert and preserve its beauty.

## France-Jordan telecoms cooperation outlined

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 7 -- On the occasion of French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Jordan, the Director General of the Telecommunications Corporation, Mr. Mohammad Shahed Ismail, spoke to the Jordan Times of the cooperation between the two countries in developing Jordan's communication services.

"It is a well known fact in the telecommunications world that both leaders, His Majesty King Hussein and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, are telecommunications enthusiasts. France today is enjoying the benefits of President Giscard's vision, for he supported French industry in switching to fully modern time-division digital techniques," Mr. Ismail said.

"In Jordan, we are trying hard to fulfill the wishes of His Majesty in adopting the latest and most modern technology and state of the art."

Mr. Ismail emphasised the financial French-Jordanian protocol which was concluded between the two governments last June for the total value of 290,430,000 French francs, or about JD 20 million. The protocol has been dedicated to help the TCC implement a major portion of its telecommunications plans.

The projects using equipment of French origin will cover the procurement, installation and commissioning of a "digital switching system" and interconnecting digital transmission systems. The contracts will be awarded on a turnkey basis and will cover the Irbid governorate, the Jordan Valley, Salt and Amman, and possibly Zarqa. The projects will add more than 60,000 lines to Jordan's automatic telephone networks.

Mr. Ismail expressed his hopes that the protocol may be extended and provide financing to increase the networks output to about 90,000 automatic lines in these areas.

The "digital system" has advantages over the existing conventional "analogue system," Mr. Ismail explained.

"This advanced technology will allow us for the first time in Jordan to fully integrate the rural areas with the urban areas in one comprehensive system that will provide the same grade of automatic telephone service to remote rural areas as offered to urban and metropolitan areas at a reasonable and competitive cost. This extension into the rural areas is in line with the policies of our government and our board of directors," he said.

Tenders for the projects will be floated next month to all bidders in the French market. The TCC is getting some technical support

from the French post, telegraph and telephone administration in this effort.

Last year a huge and important project was awarded to a French firm, Thomson C.S.F., for the manufacture, supply, installation and commissioning of Jordan's National and International Switching Centre (NISC). The centre, to be put in operation in April of next year, will allow automatic dialling and switching of national and international calls by subscribers in Jordan.

The TCC completed construction of Jordan's second satellite tracking earth station as well as modernising the old station in preparation for the International Subscriber Dialling services (ISD). This project was carried out by NEC of Japan.



AMMAN, March 7 (JNA)--The late Mr. Abdullah Rimawi, member of the National Consultative Council (NCC) was buried today in Jubeiha, north of Amman. His Majesty King Hussein deputised the Chief Chamberlain, Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, to participate in the funeral.

Also taking part in the burial were the president of the NCC Mr. Ahmad Tarawneh, a number of cabinet members and a number of NCC members.

## Local News Briefs

AMMAN, March 7 (JT)--The Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Free Zone Corporation's board of directors will hold a meeting in Deria on April 3, the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Dr. Hashem Dabbas, said. Dr. Dabbas, also chairman of the corporation's board of directors, added that they will review the corporation's achievements and approve its balance sheet and final accounts.

AOABA, March 7 (JT)--Police here arrested a burglar after he had broken into 13 houses in one month. According to Al Ra'i newspaper, the thief in most cases stole cash and spent the money at hotel bars in the city.

## PLO diplomacy

World, Africa and in socialist nations of Eastern Europe and Asia. In 63 countries, PLO representatives are invited to all formal diplomatic functions and have easy access to host governments.

The PLO is represented through Arab League offices in Britain, Spain, West Germany, Japan, Kenya, Brazil and Canada. It has representatives at United Nations offices in Switzerland, Austria, the United States and France.

The organisation has information offices with some liaison with host governments in France and Belgium and a solely liaison office in Mexico. It has information offices in the United States and Sweden.

It has observer status at the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity and full membership in the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organisation and the non-aligned movement.

The Palestinian organisation's offices frequently have been the targets of attacks, attributed to the longstanding "war of the spooks" between the PLO and Israel.

The PLO accused Israel of assassinating the Palestinian representative and another official in Cyprus last December. There also have been assassinations in France, Britain, Italy and Kuwait in the past eight years.

Abu Jafar, the 49-year-old director of the political department, says the 105 nations that voted to allow Mr. Arafat to address the U.N. General Assembly in November 1974 and to give the PLO observer status at the United Nations "recognised" the PLO. He said this recognition since has been cemented by protocols signed by those nations and the PLO.

Roughly 10 other countries that abstained or voted against the 1974 seating have been won over, he said. Mr. Arafat frequently boasts that the PLO is recognised by more governments than Israel, which has diplomatic relations with only 67 countries.

The architect of the PLO diplomatic initiative is Mr. Farouk

Kaddumi, chief of the political department. He was accepted for undergraduate work at Cornell University, N.Y., in the 1950s, but gave up the idea when American authorities revoked his visa on the grounds he was a "communist."

He graduated from the American University in Cairo in 1958 with a degree in economics. Abu Jafar graduated from the American University of Beirut with a degree in the sciences.

Arab diplomats here rate the PLO's political representatives highly. "They have some of the best experts on Arab affairs and their work is thorough" said an envoy from one conservative nation.

"They always have an independent position on inter-Arab squabbles and that is not easy. They work a lot smoother than most political departments of Arab countries."

Many westerners who meet with Mr. Arafat have suggested that his organisation give up its military campaign against Israel and use diplomatic means exclusively. PLO officials reject putting down any of their weapons until they attain their goals.

"Every military struggle has political aims," says Mr. Mahmoud Labady, the PLO's chief spokesman. "Our political efforts around the world do not conflict with our military actions. They are complementary."

## Cairo protest

challenged President Anwar Sadat's peace policy.

A student speaker warned against a "cultural and economic invasion" now that Egypt and Israel have established diplomatic relations.

"Today we call you to discuss a Zionist-American plot on Jerusalem," said the bearded speaker. "We have to understand it and confront it."

He also referred to U.S. President Jimmy Carter's turnaround on support for a U.N. resolution condemning Israeli settlements, saying that Mr. Carter "succumbed to Zionist pressure."

A similar anti-normalisation theme was heard in other mosques

on the Muslim day of worship in Egypt. In suburban Helwan, a preacher said that the four Arab-Israeli wars represented an attempt by the west to dominate the east militarily and that "the door is now open" to cultural, political and economic domination.

The Al Azhar rally was arranged by the Islamic Society, an umbrella group representing several fundamentalist organisations. Its members wore green armbands and sold pamphlets entitled "Zionist plots" for the equivalent of a U.S. dime.

One leaflet distributed by the group called on Egyptians to boycott all Israeli and any Egyptian who had dealings with them, a call that has been taken up by leftists as well.

"We denounce recognition of Israel, making peace with it and normalisation," the leaflet states. "We ask a total boycott--no dealing with its diplomats or journalists or offering help to its tourists."

When Israel's ambassador, Dr. Elihu Ben Elissar, was in-alled ten days ago, several Israeli flags were burned in protest and anti-Israeli demonstrations were held.

## Giscard

whether they be the occupation of Arab lands since 1967, guarantees which must be given to all countries in the region, or, and this is natural, the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people," he added.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing has visited Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates where he won Arab acclaim for declaring France's recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. His aides signed several agreements on French-Arab cooperation in the fields of economy, oil, technology and culture.

## WANTED ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS

Applicants are invited for the post of Instructor in Electronics at the Queen Noor Training Institute for Civil Aviation, Amman Airport.

The successful applicants will be expected to take part in the teaching programme in both practical and theoretical subjects and may be responsible for field training and visits as required by the institute. They will also be provided with opportunities for specialised training abroad.

The institute has well-equipped laboratories and a good range of operational airfield equipment. Candidates should possess as minimum a B.Sc. degree in electronics.

A genuine interest in teaching is essential.

Application forms are available from the institute and should reach the institute not later than March 15, 1980.

Applications should be submitted to the director, Queen Noor Training Institute for Civil Aviation.

Telephone 56553

سنة ١٤٠١ هـ



# Rediscovering the route of Alexander the Great

By Steven Ross  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, March 7 — Young people with backpacks and hiking boots have become a frequent sight along the roads of much of the world these days. But one might well wonder what moves one of them to roam over almost the entire Middle East on foot, choosing what in many cases seems to be far from the easiest route. Mr. John M. Bouda's calling card answers any such questions: he is travelling "along the route of Alexander the Great."

The route, which Alexander took in conquering most of the known world in the fourth century B.C., has, in its rough outlines, always been fairly well known to historians. But the details of the route — how Alexander and his armies got from one known point another — have remained obscure. It is such details that Mr. Bouda, 25, is clearing up by retracing the route on foot.

"Of course," he told the Jordan Times in an interview, "no-one can be absolutely certain about the route Alexander took. But I can be more so than anybody else."

Mr. Bouda, a native of Cleveland, Wisconsin, graduated from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island in 1977, taking an honours degree in Eastern Mediterranean Studies. This degree included archaeology, classics and political science, and he was looking for ways to broaden his knowledge of the Eastern Mediterranean region.

"I am very interested in Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt; this whole region of the world. But unfortunately scholars have tended to divide the study of its history into regional disciplines."

He preferred to treat the area as a whole. But the idea for his current trip arose when, upon reaching the end of his college studies, he realised that he had studied all of these countries but hadn't visited them. "I very much wanted to visit them," he said. "To get experience of both the ancient sites and the contemporary culture of the region, I felt I needed to join the tradition of such itinerant diarists of the ancient world as Pausanias and Herodotus."

"There were two people whose routes I could follow to visit all the countries I wanted to see. One was Thomas Burkhart (the 19th century traveller who rediscovered Petra); the other was Alexander. Burkhart, of course, is well known to scholars and to many people in this part of the world; but in the United States he is a very obscure figure." Thus Mr. Bouda chose Alexander as his exemplar, and succeeded in generating enough interest in his project to send him off with an Arnold Fellowship — a travelling fellowship granted every year at Brown, which he won over hundreds of other applicants.

Thus, ever since his graduation and receiving the fellowship, Mr. Bouda has been walking in Alexander's footsteps. "I have walked over 6,000 kilometres in the past two years," he said. His journey started near Pella in northern Greece, the birthplace of Alexander. He has walked across Thrace and Macedonia into Turkey and proceeded down Turkey's western coast. Turning inland, he made a loop northward through central Turkey (where he discovered in the Taurus mountains a Roman village whose location had been unknown).

Moving on to Syria, he visited Latakia, Homs and Damascus before coming to Jordan. The next stage of his journey will be in Egypt. "The Egyptian section is the only one I will not be able to do on foot," he told the Jordan Times.

## LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	298.50/300.50
U.K. sterling	668.20/672.50
West German mark	166.70/167.70
Swiss franc	173.30/174.30
French franc	71.20/71.60
Italian lire	
(for every 100)	36.00/36.20
Japanese yen	
(for every 100)	121.30/122.00
Dutch guilder	151.60/152.50
Belgian franc	102.80/103.40
Swedish crown	70.10/70.50



The conquests of Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.)

Times. "I will very soon be making arrangements for camels to take me through the West Egyptian desert." After that stage he will return to Jordan and proceed northward to cover some parts of Syria and southern Turkey where he has not yet been.

"The route I am following is almost exactly that of Alexander," he said. "I say almost exactly because there are some parts of the itinerary on which scholars can't agree." He is relying on all possible sources, from

where he came three weeks ago, and stayed much longer than he had planned. He has visited Aqaba, Petra, Jerash, Ajloun, Pella, Wadi Rum, and some of the desert castles, and says, "Jordan is a small country — but what fantastic variation!"

The small growth of beard which he wore when speaking with the Jordan Times, he attributed to his sojourn in Wadi Rum, whence he walked through the desert to Aqaba. "This was one of the most beautiful walks I have ever

considerations — in other words, the current political situation in such places as Iran and Afghanistan. But resorting to optimism once again, he says he hopes to be able to complete his trip within the next four years.

In speaking of these eastern conquests of Alexander, Mr. Bouda displayed what is obviously his great interest in Alexander as a man, and his feats. Alexander's easternmost battle occurred in Jhelun, in India. Though a victory, it was, in Mr. Bouda's words, a "scary one." Alexander's troops were fighting in a totally new world, and the Indians against whom they battled used elephants in warfare. After Jhelun, the Macedonians, who had come along with Alexander the whole way, expressed their discontent, and he agreed not to push on.

"Alexander at that time thought he was near the end of the world," Mr. Bouda said, "and so figured there was not much to be gained from continuing. But who knows what would have happened if he had gone just a little further, and seen China beckoning!"

"If he had had the Macedonians' support, he would have continued. But you must realise that these were men who had had seven or eight years of continuous fighting; they naturally wanted to get home. The psychological strain of such an effort on Alexander himself must have been tremendous. Many historians have tried to analyse Alexander's character, to understand what would have made him commit such irrational acts as the murder of his best commander. But no one has talked about the great accomplishment of taking the strain his conquests must have involved."

When Alexander died in Babylon he was on the way back to Macedonia; but the route he was taking was, of course, different from that he had taken on the way east. He naturally wanted, even in returning, to see new parts of the world, and nobody knows what he would have done had he lived longer. Mr. Bouda thinks he might, for instance, have taken a detour through the Arabian Peninsula.

Besides the historical interest of his trip, he says, "it is also a journey of great human interest. One can't divorce oneself — and I don't want to — from the people of the countries one visits."

In order to find the most likely route for Alexander to have taken, he has often had to question the local people. The older citizens of any particular village are usually the most helpful for this purpose. "The younger folks would usually just say that in order to reach such-and-such a place, you just hopped in your car and took such-and-such a road. But when I made it clear that I wanted to know the footpaths, the older men's eyes would light up and they would gather around and study the map with me."

In such personal contacts, Mr. Bouda has found that he is a "window on the west" to the people whom he meets. He is able to help many people who have never met a westerner to come to a greater understanding of the west, and Americans in particular — "and when I return to the States, I try to explain the eastern world to people there," many of whom are themselves ignorant. "America is a great and powerful country," he said. "But we must use this power wisely — and the best way to do that is by listening to other people."

On his trek through the Middle East, he has met all kinds of people, "from criminals to ambassadors. I have been arrested, had roses strewn at my feet, been

blessed by a Greek priest who thought I was following in the footsteps of St. Paul; I have been invited to the wedding of a Turkish mayor's daughter."

As he proceeds with his wanderings, he has felt the need to distinguish himself somehow from the thousands of other young westerners who wander with backpacks and hiking boots, but who do not have a coherent project like following Alexander the Great. He has kept what he calls a "high profile," which has included appearing in newspaper articles in a number of places where he has already been. In Ankara, he had calling cards printed, with his name, address, and a map of his journey. He found this necessary, he said, because "I found that everyone I met in Turkey had a card to give me, and I had nothing to give in return."

Mr. Bouda's boots are, in themselves, something special. They have been custom made for him by an American footwear company, which is using his trek as an opportunity to have some research and development done. The "JB" series, named after him (the current model is the JB5), incorporates improvements he himself has suggested as a result of his many kilometres of experience, and the boots are made of the very best materials.

Improved hiking footwear is but one of the benefits that the world will derive from Mr. Bouda's trek. He has already written two articles (one on Mutatio Caena, the Roman village he discovered in Turkey), and plans to continue writing. When his journeys are over, if ever, he plans to write a book. "I have taken thousands of photographs which I would like to see published," he says.

Mr. Bouda has left Jordan to arrange the Egyptian leg of his journey. "The desert trip has to start by the beginning of April, at the latest," he said — or else he will have to wait until next year.

## TODAY'S WEATHER

It will be increasingly cloudy with local rain, but it will stay warm. Winds will be south-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, partly cloudy with a chance of rain. Wind will be southerly moderate and seas rough.

	Overnight	Daytime
Amman	low 7	high 16
Aqaba	13	24
Deserts	6	18
Jordan Valley	12	22



donin hunter shot what was possibly the last leopard in 1964. The Ministry of Tourism is distributing this poster to hunting as part of its contributing to the World Conservation Strategy, launched in Jordan yesterday for the protection of natural resources.



Starrett, in training for the ACOR "ultra-marathon".

## Ultra-marathon run to benefit ACOR

March 7 (JT) — Weather permitting, the Jordan Valley scene this month of the start of an "ultra-marathon" run to benefit the American Centre for Oriental Archaeology (ACOR). Mr. Sam Starrett, the chief of the U.S. Embassy's section and Mr. John Abizaid, a student at the University are planning to run the length of the country starting on

which has already had to be postponed once due to poor weather. The run will start in Adasiya in the northern Jordan Valley and end in Amman. "We definitely plan to make the run," Mr. Starrett told the Times, "but if there is too much rain, we will have to postpone the run to take a week; wives of runners and members of Archaeology will provide food and encouragement way."

Mr. Shea of the Friends of Archaeology committee working on the run, on the basis of a certain amount of money for a tance run (the amount is at the donor's discretion). The hopes to raise JD 70,000 in Jordan during the coming year to build a new home for its activities. For more news call Mr. Shea at 66968 or 44371, ext. 275.

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## TENDER NOTICE FROM JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY REGARDING TENDER NO. 29/79 "TAFILAH & SHOUBAK RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT"

Jordan Electricity Authority announces the availability of amendment No. 3 relevant to above-mentioned tender.

Tenderers who obtained the documents can also obtain this amendment from:

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5th Circle, Jabal Amman  
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## THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Jordan Valley Authority announces to all drilling contractors who have picked up or requested copies of the tender document for the Jordan Valley water well drilling programme that:

- 1- The date for receipt of bids has been postponed to April 2, 1980.
- 2- The pre-bid conference scheduled for March 3 has been postponed to the March 15, 1980. However, attendance at this conference is not mandatory.
- 3- An addendum to the tender documents has been prepared which may affect your response to the tender. The addendum can be obtained from the office of Jordan Valley Authority at the Third Circle in Jabal Amman, Amman, Jordan; or from Dames and Moore, 1626 Cole Boulevard, Golden, Colorado, 80401, U.S.A. Tel. (303) 232-6262.

Omar Abdulla Dakhqan  
President

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND (Anglican Episcopal)

Services in English on Sunday, March 9, at the Church of the Redeemer (near 1st Circle, Jabal Amman)

8 a.m. Holy Communion  
12 noon: Morning Prayer

ALL WELCOME



## Tate 'to put Ali in retirement for good'

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, March 7 (AP) — The World Boxing Association (WBA) will not sanction Muhammad Ali's proposed world heavyweight title fight with champion John Tate in June, the Chairman of the WBA championship committee, Mike Mortimer, said here today. He said: "No world title fight can take place unless it is sanctioned by my office and under the championship results, Ali is not eligible to fight for the heavyweight crown."

"In accordance with the WBA regulations, the world championship is limited to boxers in the official ratings. These ratings are drawn up monthly by Dr. Elias Cordova of Panama and unless — or until — Ali is officially rated among the top 10, he is not eligible to fight for the world heavyweight title. I therefore cannot sanction his proposed fight with Tate," said Mortimer.

Meanwhile, in Knoxville, Tennessee John Tate's manager says the WBA heavyweight champion is looking forward to a fight with Ali, but first he must dispose of challenger Mike Weaver. Ace Miller made the comment yesterday, the day Ali's manager and promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank, reached agreement on a deal that would bring the 38-year-old Ali out of retirement to fight Tate in late June. But that Tate-Ali fight would be off, and according to Arum, would likely become an Ali-Weaver bout if Tate loses his title to Weaver in their March 31 fight here.

And Weaver was very much on Miller's mind yesterday. "Sure we want Ali, but we're more interested in Weaver," Miller said in a telephone interview. "We've got to beat him before we fight anybody else."

"Weaver's a fighter a lot of people could overlook. He's a rangy boxer with a long reach," Miller said. "Nobody can judge his distance. He's got no reverse. Like John, he just goes forward and plugs. It will be a case of two complementary styles — only John is bigger and I think stronger."

Miller said Tate was disappointed when Ali announced his retirement in 1978. "We always wanted to fight him. I doubt that his layoff will affect him too much. Ali's a remarkable athlete. He was off 3 1/2 years and came back. But we think we can win. We think we can put him into retirement for good."

Arum said yesterday in New York that while he had reservations about Ali being able to get back in shape by the end of June, Ali, who now weighs 248 pounds (112 kilograms), had assured him he could. "And who am I," asked Arum, "to tell the greatest fighter that he's wrong?" Arum confirmed that if Ali finds that he cannot get in shape, the Tate fight will be called off. "I would never let him disgrace himself," Arum said.

## Davis Cup results

BRISBANE, Australia March 7 (AP) — New Zealand's Chris

Lewis beat Australia's John Alexander 5-7, 9-7, 8-10, 6-4, 7-5, in a 4 1/2 hour epic battle in the Davis Cup eastern zone tennis final at Milton Courts today. The victory put New Zealand ahead 1-0 in the final. Lewis served no less than 16 double faults and was penalised six times for rare foot faults. "That's the most pressure I've ever played under," a jubilant Lewis said.

The match was twice interrupted by rain, in the second set with the scores three-all and again at three-all in the third set. Australia's Phil Dent took the first set 6-2 in his match with New Zealand's Onny Parun. Parun took the second set 7-5, before officials called off play for the day.

Meanwhile in Zurich, Switzerland and Hungary each won one singles match on the opening day of their Davis Cup European zone quarterfinal here yesterday. Both matches went to five sets. Heinz Guenthardt of Switzerland beat Janos Benyk and Zoltan Kuharsky levelled the tie for Hungary by defeating Roland Stadler.

## Kevin Reeves sought by Norwich City

LONDON, March 7 (AP) — Norwich City was today considering a £1 million (\$2.3 million) offer from Manchester City for England international striker Kevin Reeves.

Reeves, 22, cost Norwich £55,000 from Bournemouth three years ago. He is regarded as one of England's most promising young soccer players. Norwich manager John Bond, who has guided Reeves' career since the striker was in his mid-teens, said: "It would be disappointing to lose him, but we have to listen to an offer like this."

## Sunstar women's golf tourney to start

LOS ANGELES, March 7 (AP) — Rain forced postponement yesterday of the first round in the Sunstar Women's professional Golfers Association tournament at Rancho Park. Officials said it was hoped the first round could be played today although more

## JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

rain is forecast.

Nancy Lopez Melton is the defending champion in the \$125,000 tournament. A total of 93 pros and three amateurs are scheduled for the opening round.

A spokesman for the tournament said the plans are to have the first round today, a second 18-hole round tomorrow after which the field will be cut to the low 70 and ties. A 36-hole final is slated for Sunday. If that does not prove feasible, the final 18 will be played on Monday.

## Prince Charles, a jockey in steeplechase

LONDON, March 7 (AP) — Prince Charles is to make his second appearance as a jockey at Sandown Park race course tomorrow. The heir to the British throne, who finished second in a flat race at Plumpton earlier this week, is to ride Sea Swell over fences in the Duke of Gloucester Memorial Trophy steeplechase. The Queen Mother will be in attendance to see her grandson ride the outsider in the 3-mile chase.

## Utah beats Portland in NBA basketball

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, March 7 (AP) — After being held to just nine first-half points, Adrian Eantley broke loose for 21 points in the second half to lead the Utah Jazz to a 117-110 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers in NBA action here last night.

## Pakistan amateur impresses squash champ

LONDON, March 7 (R) — Britain's Jonah Barrington, one of the all-time squash greats, and Omer Jahangir Kahn of Pakistan should produce an absorbing British Open Championship third round confrontation here tomorrow.

Six-time winner Barrington, 39 next month, but still good enough to be rated ninth in the international rankings, admitted he will need all his experience to beat the brilliant world amateur champion.

## Gold demand unsatisfied

HONG KONG, March 7 (AP) — A West German banker predicted today the price of gold will rise above \$850 an ounce because of a shortage in world gold markets. Mr. Hans-Joachim Schreiber, member of the board of managing directors of the Dresdner Bank, predicted there will be shortage of at least 500 tons of gold in world markets this year.

Addressing a luncheon given by his bank, Mr. Schreiber, considered by many bankers here as a gold expert, said he based his prediction on three factors:

The Soviet Union will not sell gold.  
The U.S. Treasury will not hold further auctions.  
The International Monetary Fund will cease gold auctions in May.

Mr. Schreiber said, additionally, that he sees no signs of reduction in demand for gold, particularly in the industrial field. The German banker declared to set a maximum price for gold but added: "Let me say I find it hard to believe that the highest price we have seen so far — around \$850 an ounce — will be the ceiling."

Mr. Schreiber said increasing private investment in gold is also causing the shortage, adding that 580 tons of gold went into private ownership last year compared with 220 tons in 1975. He stressed as long as the prevailing inflation rate in the western world cannot be reduced, the world will continue to invest in tangible assets, particularly in precious metals.

## U.S. prime rates at record 17.75%

NEW YORK, March 7 (AP) — The prime lending rate jumped to a record 17.75 per cent today as U.S. interest rates continued their spiral in the wake of Federal Reserve credit-tightening actions.

Citibank, the second-largest U.S. commercial bank and often a leader in prime rate moves, boosted its charge on loans to top-rated businesses from the 17.25 per cent level it announced March 4.

Mr. Walter B. Wriston, Citibank's Chairman, said the price the bank is paying for the money it lends "indicates a higher rate" for the prime than the 17.75 per cent we announced. "Since the financial markets are both thin and volatile, it is difficult to determine the appropriate base lending rate," Mr. Wriston said. "It is widely anticipated in the press that the Carter administration will announce a programme to deal with inflation over the weekend or early next week," he said.

The prime rate had stood at 15.25 per cent since Feb. 15, when the Federal Reserve launched its latest effort to slow inflation and economic activity by making money harder to obtain. The prime was at 11.5 to 11.75 per cent a year ago.

The prime rate is not directly linked to rates on consumer loans or home mortgages. But it is widely watched as an indicator of short term interest rate trends.

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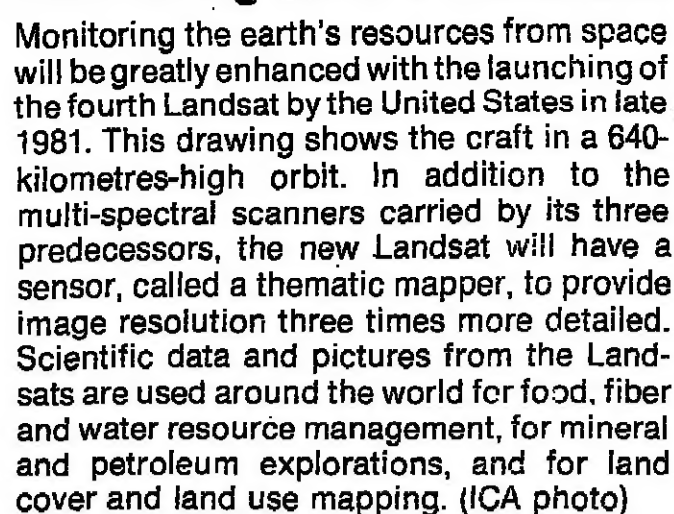
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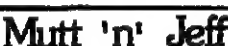
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7:00 Morning Show	15:00 Capital Hit	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75
7:30 News Bulletin	16:00 News 2000	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75
7:40 Morning Show	16:30 News Bulletin	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75
10:00 News Summary	16:30 Old Foundation	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75
10:30 Jordan in History	17:00 Jordan in History	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75
11:00 Sign of Life	18:00 News Bulletin	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75
11:30 News Bulletin	18:30 News Bulletin	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75
12:00 News Bulletin	19:00 News Bulletin	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75
12:30 Radio 7	19:30 News Bulletin	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75
13:00 News Bulletin	19:30 News Bulletin	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75
13:30 Radio 7	19:30 News Bulletin	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75
14:00 Music	19:30 News Bulletin	Amman	Al Assad (128-1)	United Cultural Centre	462-75

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## Massive airlift signals offensive underway 100 Soviet troops killed in capture of Afghan town

WASHINGTON, March 7 (AP) — Over 100 Soviet soldiers were killed in the capture of one town in eastern Afghanistan from anti-Marxist rebels, according to intelligence sources here.

The American sources said the Russians were "punished" for taking Asmar, a town near the Pakistan border. There was no information on the number of Russian wounded. Rebel tribesmen also "took a beating," the intelligence sources said.

About three battalions of Soviet troops took part in an apparently successful drive to gain control of roads and towns in the Konar Valley, described as a rebel stronghold.

Some analysts regard the Konar Valley sweep as the forerunner of a major Soviet spring offensive. They report the Russians are gathering supplies in preparation for a big campaign.

Other intelligence officials believe the offensive already has begun with the Konar Valley operation, and they predict the present estimated 80,000 Russian troops in Afghanistan will be reinforced to as many as 150,000.

In Kabul, eyewitnesses today said the Soviets have launched a massive airlift and road operation to transport supplies to their forces as their awaited spring offensive against Afghan rebels gets into stride.

Giant Ilyushin four-engine jet transports of the Soviet civilian airline Aeroflot have been landing in a steady stream at Kabul's international airport during the past two days, the eyewitnesses said.

The white and blue-painted planes line up, at times as many as four, one behind the other, along an auxiliary runway, disgorging their cargoes down a ramp from their wide rear doors.

Scores of Soviet soldiers could be observed from the airport ter-

minial building carrying hundreds of wooden boxes out of the Ilyushin's wide bellies.

Observers at the terminal, some 400 metres from the parked Soviet planes, were unable to determine what these boxes might contain. They were piled up briefly next to the planes, before being loaded on trucks and helicopters for distribution in the strife-torn country.

Soviet MiG fighter jets overhead frequently screamed low during the unloading operation. Foreign newsmen who travelled as far as Mazari Sharif, 40 kilometres from the Soviet border and 320 kilometres north of the capital, reported that the main highway to the Soviet Union has been clogged with Soviet military trucks travelling south for the past three days.

The long convoys of hundreds of trucks, laden with food, fuel and ammunition, were escorted by Soviet tanks and armoured cars.

Hundreds of additional tanks and armoured personnel carriers are parked at strategic points along the highway, guarding

bridges, tunnels and narrow gorges in the mountain terrain.

With the Soviet strength evident, U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown told the council of foreign relations in New York that the Russians can prevail in Afghanistan, but only at a steep cost. He implied they had miscalculated "the active resistance of nationalist peoples to outside domination."

According to current U.S. estimates, the Russians have suffered between 4,000 and 5,000 casualties, including 700 to 900 dead, since invading Afghanistan in late December. Most of the casualties are believed to have resulted from sniping and other hit-and-run attacks.

Intelligence officials provided no estimates of losses sustained by the Afghan government army, which is backed by Russian troops. The Afghan army is said to be down to fewer than 40,000 men because of desertions and defections since Russian forces entered the country.

Although Mr. Brown said the Russians can prevail, intelligence specialists doubt that the Soviets will succeed in stamping out rebel resistance entirely.

If the full spring offensive comes, the rebels are considered likely to fade into the mountains and resume their guerrilla attacks later. Perhaps their most deadly enemies are Soviet helicopter gunships that can hover over the hills and strike at small bands of tribesmen.

U.S. officials say the Afghan rebels appear to have enough small arms, but lack anti-tank mines and shoulder-fired missiles to defend themselves against air attack.

### Tito's health 'stabilises'

BELGRADE, March 7 (AP) — Yugoslav officials said publicly for the first time today that President Josip Broz Tito's declining health might have reached a lengthy period of stabilisation. "We know about the stabilisation of his condition," an official said. "Because of good medical instruments, this stabilisation could last a very long time."

## U.N. director at Sa Kaew camp seeks removal of Pol Pot officer

BANGKOK, March 7 (AP) — The United Nations coordinator of the Sa Kaew refugee camp has called for the removal of a Pol Pot officer who is said to be ordering the beatings of refugees and intimidating them to return to fight in Kampuchea.

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which coordinates relief work at the camp, said the U.N. has asked Thai authorities, who are responsible for security, to investigate the problem.

A spokesman for the Thai supreme command said the case is now under investigation.

The Bangkok Post today quoted refugees in the camp as saying the Pol Pot officer, Colonel Phuk Lim, threatened to beat the UNHCR camp coordinator, Mr. John Johnson, if he enters the camp again.

It also quoted a relief worker as

saying, "I'm wondering if this is a refugee camp or a military striking area for the Khmer Rouge. Are we being duped?"

"Khmer Rouge" is a term used to designate the forces of ousted premier Pol Pot, who for four years ruled Kampuchea with a policy of terror and social disruption and are said to have been responsible for millions of deaths.

The 14,500 refugees in Sa Kaew, 175 kilometres east of Bangkok, entered Thailand under the control of Pol Pot's men, and say they continue to be terrorised and threatened, and have been told they must return to fight the Vietnamese in Kampuchea.

The refugees say Col. Lim has set up an infrastructure within the camp that eavesdrops on refugees and enforces strict discipline as in the days of Pol Pot in Kampuchea.

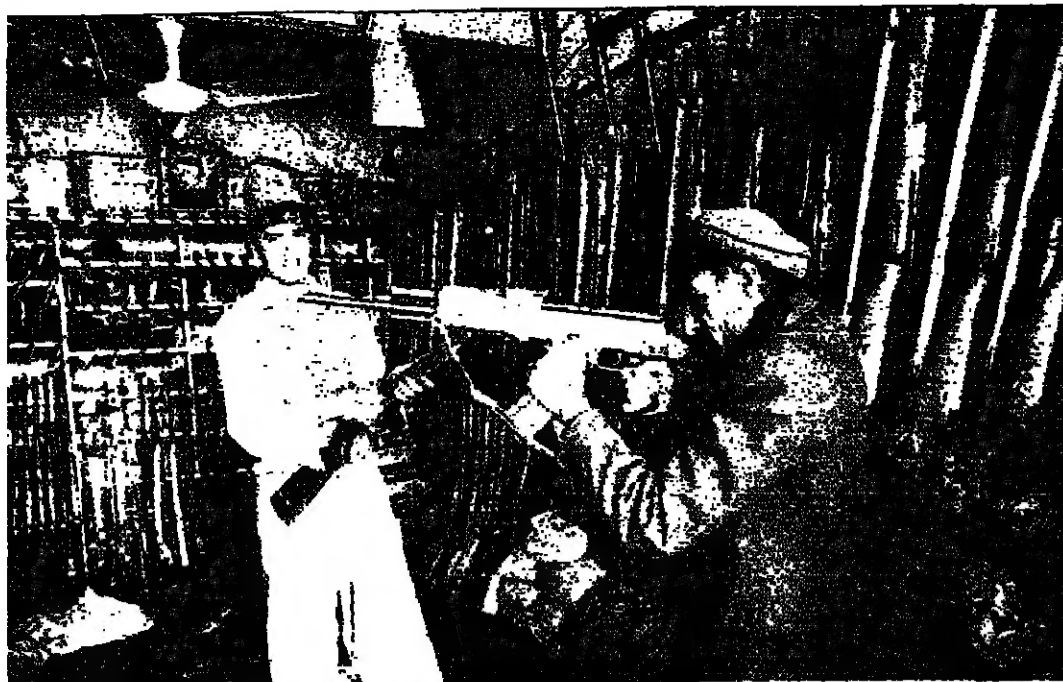
Last week, Mr. Jensen petitioned the Thai administrator

of the camp, Mr. Amorn Anantachai, asking that Col. Lim be removed, saying, "Mr. Lim is a threat to peace here at Sa Kaew. Someone will probably get killed in a short period of time."

In Bangkok, a spokesman for the UNHCR said it "fully supports" Mr. Jensen's actions and "we have asked the proper Thai authorities to investigate the matter."

A spokesman for the Thai Interior Ministry said the matter had been referred to the military, which is in charge of security for the camps. A spokesman for the Thai supreme command said the case was being considered.

The UNHCR spokesman said the United Nations cannot impose a particular social system on refugees it is aiding, but added, "We certainly can't allow a Khmer Rouge concentration camp to exist in a camp in which we assist."



In a Pakistan arms shop, an Afghan rebel tests a weapon he may use in his people's armed struggle against the Soviets in Afghanistan. (Gamma photo)

## Cuba 'abuses' political prisoners

WASHINGTON, March 7 (AP) — An Organisation of American States report says there are about 1,000 political prisoners in Cuba, some of whom suffer from abusive treatment, inadequate diet and lack of medical attention.

The 49-page report, prepared by the OAS's Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, says information received from a variety of sources reflects "the gravity of the situation" Cuban prisoners face.

The commission said it could not determine the exact number of political prisoners because Cuba has refused to cooperate with OAS investigators.

Its estimate of 1,000 was based

on public statements by Cuban officials. Some of these prisoners are serving sentences for crimes committed under the regime of President Fulgencio Batista, it said.

The report said the great majority of prisoners take part in a rehabilitation programme under which they agree to conform to socialist principles in exchange for preferential treatment and early release.

But the so-called "plantados" — those who refuse to accept rehabilitation — are the source of "the greatest international concern because of the severe mistreatment they suffer," the report said.

Most of the commission's information was derived from letters smuggled out of Cuban prisons and from the testimony of some of the 3,600 political prisoners who were released over the past year and sent to live in exile.

The commission quoted an unattributed report received in November 1978 on the condition of the "plantados."

"They are not men, they are ghosts, skeletons covered with skin. They are worse than the photos of the Nazi concentration camps that horrified the world... the state of malnutrition, the generalised anaemia keeps many of these unhappy people in a condition of total prostration, without enough energy even to stand up."

"In spite of everything, they have been beaten in a savage and brutal manner... heads, necks and arms have been broken in a systematic way, cell by cell... many have died (more than 470), assassinated in the Communist jails of

Cuba."

The report says Cubans have been taken prisoner merely for speaking out against the regime, for having tried to flee the country or because they were considered "dangerous."

The report said the Cuban government has an obligation to "respect the minimal rules" in prisoner treatment.

"The government's decision to release 3,600 political prisoners demonstrates its interest in resolving this problem," the report said. "The commission hopes that this step will be the first in a process that will lead to an end to the political prisoner system in Cuba."

### 'Poisonous' snake of unknown species caught

JAKARTA, Indonesia, March 7 (AP) — British scientists engaged in a research project known as "Operation Drake" in Marawi, Poso Regency on the eastern coast of central Sulawesi, have caught a snake of unknown species, the Antara news agency said today.

It is red in colour and 30 centimetres long, Antara said. The team of scientists said it was believed to be highly poisonous, possibly more dangerous than the cobra. Poso Regent Dr. M. Kuswandhi said scientists were flocking here to study the flora and fauna of the reservation area. The team will also visit the Kepiting (Crab) Island, where Sir Francis Drake visited four centuries ago, Antara said.

### Mountbatten leaves \$5m in will

LONDON, March 7 (AP) — Earl Mountbatten, the British World War II hero who was assassinated in Ireland last year, left \$5 million in his will, the High Court's probate registry said today. Inheritance details were kept secret.

A legal source said that secrecy was maintained at the request of Queen Elizabeth II, a cousin of the Earl, in accordance with the practice of not publishing details of wills involving members and immediate relatives of the royal family. "It suggests that the queen herself or her husband or children benefit under the will," the source said.

Lord Mountbatten, who was 79, was killed in the Irish Republic last Aug. 27 when a bomb blew up his holiday boat in Donegal Bay. The underground Irish Republican Army provisionals claimed to have carried out the crime in their campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

## Top London police implicated in major corruption scandal

LONDON, March 7 (AP) — As many as 25 London police officers, including some as high-ranking as divisional commander, could be charged with corruption in a major crackdown on "bent coppers," Cockney slang for corrupt policemen, a retiring police chief says.

The statement by Mr. Arthur Hambleton, who retired as chief constable of Dorset County last week, brought into focus a long, controversial investigation into what insiders say is an organised web of police graft. It also aroused more public disquiet about Britain's traditionally upright Bobbies.

Apart from corruption allegations, there are mounting demands for an inquiry into the deaths of some 273 persons in police custody over the last decade.

Mr. Hambleton declared in a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) interview he was "absolutely staggered" at the extent of alleged corruption among London's Bobbies, including elite Scotland Yard crime teams once hailed as incorruptible.

Altogether 80 officers "up to very high rank" in London's 22,000-member Metropolitan Police and the tiny City of London

Force which covers the capital's financial district are being investigated, he disclosed.

Mr. Hambleton was, until his retirement, in charge of "Operation Countryman," the biggest investigation into police corruption in British police history.

The allegations are not new. Twenty London officers were jailed a few years ago in a big cleanup and some 400 officers have been dismissed or forced to resign.

But the allegations are the most serious yet: helping gangsters plan holdups in which men were killed; taking rackets; falsely accusing innocent men; and, altering evidence.

Mr. Hambleton's disclosures were the first public statement by a "Countryman" officer since the probe began 18 months ago and underlined growing concern about why it is taking so long to produce results.

One source hinted that Mr. Hambleton is seeking to put authorities on the spot by publicly indicating the scale of the investigation.

"If nothing happens the people at the top know that there will inevitably be allegations of whitewash and cover-up," the source explained.

So far action has only been taken against a handful of officers. Seven have been suspended. Five have been charged, the highest rank a detective chief inspector — and he was cleared earlier this month. None has yet been convicted.

"Countryman's" slow progress has triggered reports of sabotage and coverups by London detectives. Mr. Hambleton guardedly noted that senior detectives "had not been helpful" to "Countryman's" 80 investigators, all drawn from provincial police forces.

This contrasted with a statement by the attorney-general, Sir Michael Havers, in Parliament last

week that "there is no truth at all that any senior member of Metropolitan Police or the City police have taken any kind of blocking action at all."

Mr. Hambleton's disclosures stung London's police chiefs. Sir David McNea, the Met commissioner and Britain's top policeman, branded them "dangerously premature."

Mr. McNea and Mr. Peter Marshall, the City Force commissioner, declared in a statement: "Our joint determination to locate and eradicate the cancer of corruption is shared wholeheartedly by the overwhelming majority of London's police."

But police sources say that several detectives under suspicion were tipped off and destroyed evidence when investigators moved in.

"Countryman" originally was based in a south London police station, but moved to a more secure headquarters — a deserted police apartment block in the market town of Godalming south of London.

### China names new propaganda chief

PEKING, March 7 (R) — China's Communist Party has appointed Wang Renzhong as propaganda chief to replace Hu Yaobang, who was given the powerful new post of party general secretary last week, a foreign ministry spokesman said today.

He said Vice-Premier Wang had given up the post of chairman of the state agriculture commission to take over as director of the party's propaganda department.

Diplomatic sources expressed surprise at the new appointment since Mr. Wang appeared to have had little experience of high-level propaganda work. The spokesman did not say who had taken over the agriculture commission.

## Iki fishermen to kill another 500 dolphins

IKI ISLAND, Japan, March 7 (R) — Japanese fishermen who have already caused an international outcry by killing large numbers of dolphins said today they had captured about 500 more which they also intended to kill.

The fishermen, from the western Japanese island of Iki, last week killed 800 dolphins trapped in nets at the mouth of a bay. An official from the local fisheries cooperative said today the school of 500 dolphins was caught yesterday evening. "We are going to dispose of them," he declared, adding that the fishermen were forced to stop normal fishing earlier yesterday because of a big convergence of dolphins. The official said, "We are fully aware of international criticism. But we cannot stop killing dolphins because we have to fish these waters at this time of the season to support our own livelihood."

Fishermen on Iki island first aroused the anger of environmentalists in 1978 by slaughtering 1,000 dolphins.

The government's fisheries agency will meet a team of scientists in Tokyo today. Earlier this week the scientists conducted two days of experiments with sonic wave-emitting devices aimed at frightening the fish devouring dolphins away. The foreign ministry, which has been receiving protests from abroad, has asked the agency to take action to stop the killings.

But no concrete measures to save both the dolphins and the Iki fishermen's livelihood have been announced by the government.

There are an estimated 35,000 dolphins around Iki island. The 25-year-old son of an Iki fisherman said in a letter to the mass circulation daily Asahi Shimbun today that various ways of dispersing the mammals had been tried by people on the island without success since his childhood. He urged the ministries concerned to find effective ways of solving the problem.

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